



23 August 2022

Tēnā koe

On 9 August 2022, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *What percentage of all slaughterhouse workers have been referred there by MSD? Either currently or on average depending on your figures.*
- *What is the total number of people who have been referred to slaughterhouse work per year over the last ten years?*

I am refusing your request for the percentage of all slaughterhouse workers that have been referred by the Ministry under section 18(g) of the Act as the total number of all slaughterhouse workers in New Zealand is not held by the Ministry and I have no grounds to believe that the information is held by another department.

However, please see **Table One** attached in the **Appendix** showing the total number of job placements in meat processing positions, companies or industries between 1 January 2012 and 30 June 2022.

The principles and purposes of the Official Information Act 1982 under which you made your request are:

- to create greater openness and transparency about the plans, work and activities of the Government,
- to increase the ability of the public to participate in the making and administration of our laws and policies and
- to lead to greater accountability in the conduct of public affairs.

This Ministry fully supports those principles and purposes. The Ministry therefore intends to make the information contained in this letter and any attached documents available to the wider public. The Ministry will do this by

publishing this letter on the Ministry's website. Your personal details will be deleted, and the Ministry will not publish any information that would identify you as the person who requested the information.

If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz.

If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi nui

Bridget Saunders

Bridget Saunders
Manager
Issue Resolution – Service Delivery

Appendix

Table One: Number of job placements in meat processing positions, companies or industries between 1 January 2012 and 30 June 2022.

Quarter	Referrals	Positions Filled
March 2012	321	135
June 2012	138	84
September 2012	447	252
December 2012	441	234
March 2013	375	204
June 2013	171	51
September 2013	609	285
December 2013	489	228
March 2014	462	225
June 2014	138	63
September 2014	372	99
December 2014	552	246
March 2015	282	114
June 2015	171	48
September 2015	768	294
December 2015	648	255
March 2016	318	126
June 2016	294	69
September 2016	645	264
December 2016	693	456
March 2017	390	204
June 2017	288	60
September 2017	930	315
December 2017	714	282
March 2018	390	159
June 2018	495	129
September 2018	915	324
December 2018	651	294
March 2019	438	198
June 2019	258	84
September 2019	933	417
December 2019	768	375

Quarter	Referrals	Positions Filled
March 2020	582	294
June 2020	372	117
September 2020	597	219
December 2020	795	357
March 2021	546	294
June 2021	399	207
September 2021	903	420
December 2021	846	414
March 2022	591	327
June 2022	429	264

Notes for **Table One**:

- This includes people not employed in the production line by companies that operate in meat processing space, for example management and support functions.
- Categorical information does not exist for position descriptions, data is captured free-text and subject to human factors such as typographical errors and interpretation.
- Three text sources have been used to identify these jobs:
 - All jobs with employers who have a ANZSIC industry of Meat Processing.
 - All jobs with major meat processing employers. For example, Silver Fern Farms, Alliance Group, ANZCO, AFFCO and South Pacific Meats.
 - Any position names that contain the words meat, slaughter, boner or freezing.
- This will include some people who are:
 - employed by meat processing employers in non-meat processing roles. For example, book-keepers, janitors and personal assistants.
 - employed in meat-related jobs for non-meat processing employers. For example, meat packers in wholesale and retail trade.
- To protect confidentiality the Ministry uses processes to make it difficult to identify an individual person or entity from published data. These data tables have had random rounding to base three applied to all cell counts in the table. A value of one or two may be rounded to zero or three. The impact of applying random rounding is that columns and rows may not add exactly to the given column or row totals. The published counts will never differ by more than two counts.